

Ice breaker: How would you describe the world's view of Jesus Christ?

Bethany – in the shadow of the cross...

Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill Him. (Mark 14:1)

Mary – a heart of love – “Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.” (John 12:1-3)

🕯 **Note: the measure of love is found in what we are willing to abandon** – “She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.” (Mark 14:3b) –

Mary used an entire jar of perfume (years wage) to demonstrate her love towards Jesus. Would you say you are more frugal with your love towards Christ or more generous like Mary?

What am I holding back?

Judas – a heart of lust – “But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray Him, objected, ‘Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.’ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.” (John 12:4-6)

Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me. (Psalm 41:9)

What threat, if any, would tempt you to betray Jesus like Judas did for money? How would you/are you combating that?

🕯 **Note: loving Jesus is the ultimate priority of the Christian life** – “‘Leave her alone,’ Jesus replied. ‘It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.’” (John 12:7-8)

How does your calendar, wallet, work, recreation, relationships, etc. reflect this point of Jesus being the ultimate priority of your life? Which area isn’t in line with showing Jesus being priority? How could you remedy that?

The crowd – a heart of indifference – “Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of Him but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.” (John 12:9)

Don’t follow the crowd, follow Jesus through His Word. The crowds can be confusing. If you followed Christ as Mary did with an abandoned heart, how would you worship, pray, give, serve differently?

“I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” (Mark 14:9)

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! (1 John 3:1)